



# Michigan *Office of the Auditor General* **REPORT SUMMARY**

## *Performance Audit*

### *Emerald Ash Borer Program*

#### *Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division*

#### *Department of Agriculture*

Report Number:  
79-121-05

Released:  
February 2006

*The Department of Agriculture is one of the principal departments of State government. The Department established the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Program in July 2002 after the EAB was discovered to be the cause of a massive die-off of ash trees in five southeast Michigan counties. The Department estimates that as of December 2004, 12 million (2%) of the State's 700 million ash trees have died from EAB infestations.*



Photograph of an adult emerald ash borer printed with the permission of the Department of Agriculture.

#### ***Audit Objective:***

To assess the effectiveness of the Department's education and enforcement efforts relative to the spread of EAB infestations beyond established quarantine areas.

#### ***Conclusion:***

We concluded that the Department's education and enforcement efforts relative to the spread of EAB infestations beyond established quarantine areas were moderately effective. However, we could not determine what effect, if any, the

Department's education and enforcement efforts had in preventing the spread of the EAB beyond established quarantine areas.

#### ***Reportable Conditions:***

The Department needs to improve its communication of the EAB quarantine restrictions (Finding 1).

The Department had not assessed fines against identified violators of EAB quarantine restrictions (Finding 2).

#### ***Agency Response:***

Our audit report includes 2 findings and 2 corresponding recommendations. The Department's preliminary response indicated that it agrees with one recommendation and partially agrees with the other recommendation.

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